

SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE



IN THIS ISSUE



AT THIS TIME OF MOURNING, THERE IS ALSO MUCH TO CELEBRATE LOCALLY

Our tribute to our Queen Elizabeth II
Page 24



OPEN DAYS

1.30PM
11/13 OCTOBER
1 NOVEMBER

PAGE 4-5

OCT/NOV 2022

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FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

It is such a momentous week as I write this. I have been listening/viewing endlessly the amazing events/traditions unfolding. Most interesting to me has been the constitutional happenings. I had no idea of the extent of tradition and the rigor of the various 'bodies' who need to approve Charles as the reigning monarch King Charles III.

What is happening in Ukraine is rather over shadowed but the retaking of land in the east marks, hopefully, a turn in the war which we hope will end in peace. Viktoriia tells her story in this issue about her journey to Sonning Common.

This issue includes the achievements of our schools, the opening of Memorial Park, the 50th year of the Health Centre, a tribute to the Queen and what's on in the next few weeks. The rest of the pages are full of the village's activities.

I hope you enjoy reading it? ●

*Please note the new email addresses for the magazine trustees

Diana

Diana Pearman Editor

MEET THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Diana Pearman



Christine Atkinson



Joan Grummant

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While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this magazine, the editor and the publisher cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of errors that occur.

**SC SONNING COMMON
MAGAZINE**

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SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Christine Atkinson



The last two years . . .

These have been the most challenging years for schools in our country. However, Sonning Common Primary School has managed to keep focussed on their role, and especially on one of the most important things, which is the health and well-being of both the children and the staff.

The key messages taken from the school prospectus are:

I want my child to be part of a community (so that they take their place in the world)

The school has a big village presence and the PTA events involve the whole community – quizzes, summer fair, On Your Bike

I want my child to feel valued (so that they learn to value themselves and others)

The school values - Respect - Truth - Kindness - Politeness - Doing-Your-Best - are highly important in the daily life at

school. Each term the Headteacher awards pupils who have excelled at this.

I want my child to make progress (so that they fulfill their own potential)

The school produce excellent results but not at the expense of a broad and balanced curriculum. Sports, art, and creativity are as important.

I want my child to have space to grow (so that they become a well-rounded person)

Library, Forest Camp, paddock, games courts, swimming pool, Kites garden allotment, dance studio, covered area, and large playground areas enhance and enrich the school day for all pupils.

I want my child to be well cared for (so that they feel safe)

Support is provided for SEN (special educational needs), dyslexia, tailored interventions, pastoral support, anxiety groups and art therapy so that all children can have access when and if needed. The school has a brilliant local catering company, Kites Kitchen, who provide nutritious and child friendly meals at

lunchtime, and at the Breakfast and After School Club.

I want my child to be inspired (so they always aim high)

Provided in daily lessons through diverse and committed teaching staff, with regular trips and visits for inspiration and activities

I want my child to be taught by enthusiastic staff (so they grow in awe and wonder)

Parents comment on the friendly, passionate staff. Many members have a variety of experiences outside of teaching.

The well-being of the children throughout the pandemic, during home learning, and when back in school has been paramount. Lunchtime and after school clubs include additional counselling, art therapy sessions and anxiety group workshops. The school has also been aided in their well-being approach with the introduction of three 'Pets as Therapy' dogs, Carla, Barney and Sooty. These furry friends have helped transition pupils through the gate on many

a morning and have provided a happy waggy-tailed friend to read stories to.

The success has then followed on from this encouraging and positive environment with events at county level in swimming, football, cricket and athletics.

This year the school started a Japanese club, a drama club, and have welcomed back the art club. Music is also widely encouraged, and the pupils enjoy performing in assemblies and at school events. The academic success also makes the headteacher very proud, where the results are well above both local and national averages and have been for many years.

Headteacher Mr Hirst summarises the school's success

'This is all due to the dedication and commitment of the pupils, parents, staff and governors who make Sonning Common Primary School the success that it most definitely is. I would like to thank you for all that you have done this past two years, and I really hope that you are looking forward to new, exciting challenges for this year.'

"It takes a village to raise a child"

The open days at Sonning Common Primary will be on the following dates at 1.30pm –

**Tuesday 11th October
Thursday 13th October
Tuesday 1st November**



MORE CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AT MECE



I am writing this at my desk on the first day of the new school year. It certainly felt like a return to a proper summer break this year and I am hoping my staff have all returned refreshed and renewed for the new school year.

We had a lovely finish to the school year with a fantastic Sports Day, a Dance Show and Exhibition, great end of year assemblies, trips and visits aplenty, (although the Met Office Red alert for intense heat made the last week slightly less enjoyable!).



Having secured a 'Good' rating from OFSTED in May, our next challenge were the GCSE results. With no formal examinations since 2019 we were nervous about what these results could be. We needn't have worried as the results came back very positively. In 2019 49% of exams sat were at a Grade 4 or higher however in 2022 this had gone up to 73%. Nationally, there was an average rise of 6% in this pass mark so to go up by 24% was most gratifying. What was equally pleasing was that all our students obtained their chosen destinations for study or employment after MECE. Our ex-students will be studying at Kendrick, Reading School, Piggott School, Kennet School, Henley College, Highdown School, Berkshire College of Agriculture and Reading College as well as several students following apprenticeships.



In addition, as I write this the school has just accepted its biggest Year 7 intake in many years with 112 students beginning their secondary school careers at MECE.



What I am really pleased about is the large numbers of local students who are now studying here and delighted that our Sonning Common contingent is significantly bigger than in previous years. A school that sits within the community and is connected to the community it serves, is so much more effective. When a school like ours is well supported by the local community the local community feel invested in making sure the school is a success.

I hope over the next few weeks we will see a positive decision regarding our housing development planning application. It was pleasing to see so many residents recognise that this development supports the local community both through its social housing provision but also through the development and improvement of our sporting facilities that will be open for all to use. I hope that the planning authorities can also see how important this application will be for the infrastructure provision in the local area and the quality of sport and education on offer at MECE.

Finally, it was with great pleasure that I received a voicemail last weekend from Ken Fitt who was Headteacher of Chiltern Edge School until 1986. Ken wanted to pass on his thanks to the staff regarding the vastly improved results and recent OFSTED grading. From my own point of view, this feedback was incredibly heartening to hear, at the start of another exciting year in our journey. ●

ANDY HARTLEY
Headteacher

DON'T BE SHY, THE SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE NEEDS HELP

The Sonning Common Magazine needs more help. Specifically,

- A chairman of the board of directors,
- Help with preparing editorial pieces,
- Contributions from organisations that operate in the village and
- More advertisers.

The role of the chairman is to ensure the magazine operates efficiently within the terms of the Articles of Association and to support the fellow directors and editor. Because the Magazine is registered as a Community Interest Company the liability is a maximum of £1.

The magazine is completely solvent but unless revenue is increased the format will

need to change in order to reduce costs. If you value the magazine that is delivered free of charge to over 2000 homes every other month and feel you would be able to contribute to its further development, possibly by joining the Board of Directors, please contact Geoff Adams on **972 2134**.

SONNING COMMON PRE SCHOOL WELCOME A NEW(ISH) MANAGER!

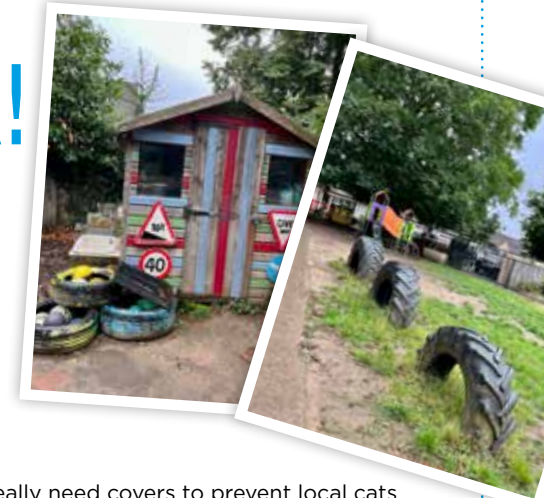


After 15 years as manager, Clare Saunders left the role at the end of the summer term to move away from the area. Deputy manager Jo Lawson has worked at the preschool for almost as long as Clare and has been deputy for over 5 years. She has now been appointed as manager from September, stepping up to the new job with enthusiasm and ideas to improve the sessions for the children. Zoe Savage has moved into the deputy role having previously been room leader.

The preschool has plenty of outdoor area for young children to explore and, as it has a good covered patio just outside, the door is always open for free flow play.

Jo's main aim is to get preschool back to pre covid days with walks round the village and visits to shops, library and the primary school. These have not happened for over two years now, and are such great experiences for the children, helping the transition to primary school. Learning to count money to spend and encouraging a love of books.

Another goal is to try and get some funds to help improve the garden. Children lead the play outside but the sand pits



really need covers to prevent local cats using them! **The preschool fundraising Scarecrow Trail will run from 19-28 October. Maps will soon be on sale for £1**

Good luck to Jo and Zoe in their new roles. ●

CHRISTINE ATKINSON



CHANCE2DANCE4CHARITY

The inaugural chance2dance4charity event on 2nd September at Peppard Memorial Hall, organised by Sue Bingham in aid of Amnesty International, was a roaring success! 50 people attended and danced non-stop for two hours, clamouring for another song when the 9.30pm deadline came around! Everyone brought their own refreshments and joined in to help tidy up smoothly at the end.

The music, with songs from across the decades to suit all tastes, was very kindly

provided by local dance teacher Kayleigh Rixon @DanceFitFun, who kicked off the evening with a warm-up disco routine which had everyone up on their feet and having fun right from the start.

What a fantastic sight, seeing so many people dancing their hearts out with no inhibitions! It was a real boost after the past couple of years and there were many requests to do it again – as often as possible! The event raised just over £350 in ticket sales and donations for the global human rights charity, which is fantastic for an event lasting just two hours, and Sue's plan is to raise funds for local charities too

at any future events, so watch this space....

A huge thank you to Kayleigh, and everyone who came along. It was brilliant!

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Phil Sweetman

Parish news

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COUNTY 20MPH SCHEME ANNOUNCED

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have designed a comprehensive Village-wide plan for the Sonning Common 20mph scheme. After due consideration, the county are happy to propose this scheme to encompass all roads within the Sonning Common boundary.

This will give pedestrians and in particular schoolchildren and the elderly the benefit

of safer and quieter roads. It will also encourage cycling around the village. This is a county initiative which will be funded by OCC and there will be no cost to SCPC, so potentially it is a win-win situation for us.

Enforcement of speed limits is always a big question and your Parish Councillors' have given much thought and discussion to this.

The county scheme is based on changing attitudes to driving in built-up and residential areas. However, if problems are identified then County will help us rectify these with engineering solutions. There will be a formal consultation by OCC soon and we hope to see new signs appearing by the end of the year. ●

Cllr Jonny Bidgood



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

When I last reported on the progress of the review of our Neighbourhood Plan a few months ago, I was hopeful that we were approaching the finishing line in what has been an agonisingly long and drawn-out process. But – as so often with anything to do with neighbourhood planning – hopes have proved to be a touch premature.

The examiner appointed to decide if our revision is fit for purpose has generally been very much in favour of what we have done. But there is a hitch – I wouldn't dream of boring the readers of this magazine by going into detail but suffice to say that it relates to the decision to allow the notorious Little Sparrows 'retirement village' to go ahead. So, some adjustments have had to be made, and –

democracy being democracy – these have to be consulted upon. Which means more weeks of delay before we can deal with the final challenge – to organise a village referendum and try to secure the backing of the people of Sonning Common.

I fear this will now be carried over into next year. But I do believe we will get there. In fact, I now give this solemn undertaking: if we don't get there, I will eat a copy of the plan, with all the supporting documentation, outside the village hall! ●

TOM FORT
Chairman, NDPWG

scnp SONNING COMMON
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Your comments are invited on the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

The district council and the independent examiner have agreed that a further round of consultation should take place on the revised documents. The consultation exercise will run from Thursday 8 September to 11.59pm on Thursday 20 October 2022

The quickest and easiest way to have your say is to use our online comment form which is available at: <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Sonning-Common-Sept-22/?m=65301498pvhiq>

Liza Foster

Foot Health Professional



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Social Mornings in the Library

Friday morning will mean coffee morning at the library!

As summer gives way to autumn, and the cold curtains our chats with friends we bump into around the village, why not arrange to meet in the warmth of the library on a Friday morning for a cuppa and a catch up?

Social mornings in the library will be kicking off on Friday 7 October at 11am with a MacMillan Coffee Morning in memory of our friend and library assistant Annabel Irwin.

From the following week, refreshments will be served in the library from 10:30am-12:30pm every Friday. So why not mention it to your friends and arrange to meet up with them there?

If you are an artist or craftsman who would be interested in displaying your work in the library on a Friday, please contact friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com

Alison Smith

Harmony

Chrissie Godfrey is arranging to collect unwanted gifts to be placed in Christmas hampers. These will then be raffled in aid of local charities. Please give to any member of Harmony



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Health Walks

Health Walks Starting places change at the beginning of October

Autumn is here, and winter will soon be upon us - get out and enjoy a brisk walk in the countryside while you can!

If you want to speak to someone contact
Chris Brook 972 2609
www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable

SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE



Friday 7th October at 10am
A reading of the Sonning Common Magazine followed by tea and a chat

All Welcome!

Remembrance Sunday

All Welcome

13th November

Sonning Common Village Hall
Open 10.45 - 1200

2 minutes silence will be observed at 11.00 am
Followed by words of remembrance by
Falklands War Veteran Alex Manning



A Poppy Wreath will be hung in the Hall in memory of
Francis (Fred) Slough, Cyrus Thatcher and Barry Weston
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ENGLAND TAUGHT US TO SMILE



Viktoriia Lapina arrived in the UK on 27th July with her 12-year-old son, Bohdan.

She tells her story to Diana Pearman.

The war started when we were staying with my parents in a small town, Pokrov, in the eastern part of Ukraine and it changed our lives completely. It was a difficult decision to leave, but battles were being fought all around us with shelling and shooting missiles all day. It was very frightening for children. I have great concern for my parents who did not want to leave their home town where they grew up and built their own house, in the Nikopol district, not far from the Zaporizhia nuclear power

plant. My sister and our children left at the same time and we all went to Poland. It took 4 days and all we had with us was a full rucksack on a very busy train with up to 15 evacuees in each compartment.

In Poland, we were welcomed and they provided everything, accommodation, clothes and food, and I thank them for their support. The only problem was the language which I did not know at all. As the only supporter of my son, I had to work to get money for all our expenses. It was a great problem and so I decided to participate in the charity scheme Homes for Ukraine. I was successful in each of the steps and finally I am here together with my son.

We have been here a month with a wonderful family and I give thanks for everyone who helped us at each stage. I want to express my special gratitude to Gillian and Giuseppe for providing us with a safe place to continue our normal existence, for accepting us as members of their family, providing us with support in all areas of life and paying special attention 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. England for us started with kind hearts and warm smiles when they met us at the airport and since then we are in safe and reliable hands. Thanks a lot, it was very important when we were taking our first steps in a foreign country. So, we are satisfied with everything we have here. Warmness comes from the residents of Sonning Common and other members of society and we have good, comfortable accommodation and kindness. We were provided with a laptop; we have food delivered by the food bank and clothes vouchers to use in the village charity shop.

In Ukraine, I worked as an associate professor, teaching English on university business and marketing courses. However, finding work here is a challenge when there is no money for transport. Finding a school place for Bohdan and friends for him to socialise with has also been difficult. Viktoriia and Bohdan are able to stay in the UK for 3 years but at the moment there is no information about what will happen about accommodation for the refugees when the initial hosting period ends.

For the early arrivals on the Homes for Ukraine programme, this will end very soon. ●

TOM FORT FOLLY

As I write this our 20-year-old daughter is in plaster from her toes to just below her knee, having broken her fibula and some other obscure bone in her ankle in a fall at an indoor climbing centre. To cheer her up I recounted some of my own acts of idiocy, starting at a tender age – perhaps three – when I stuck my little nose in the steam coming from a boiling kettle because I was intensely curious about its smell. It was very painful and the yellow ointment applied to the blistered nose was very unsightly.

I don't remember doing anything incredibly stupid at school, but I made up for that at university by:

1) breaking my wrist trying to crank my

hopeless old banger into life (no one told me to keep my thumb on the same side on the handle as my fingers)

2) and having had it put in plaster continuing to play football with it inside a yellow rubber glove and plastic bag until the plaster decomposed and the whole thing had to be done again.

My DIY career has been studded with disasters resulting from brainlessness. Most notable were, perhaps, the collapse of a whole stack of bookshelves as a result of putting rawlplugs into plaster that I knew – but didn't want to admit – was rotten; and an ill-advised attempt to stick lining paper on a kitchen ceiling without having taken the precaution of

finding out how to do it.

But for sheer imbecility I excelled myself a mere two-and-a-half years ago when trying to cycle down Devils Hill towards Harpsden after a sudden plunge in temperature had left the roads sheeted in ice. I knew it was icy, I knew bicycles don't deal well with ice, I knew that falling on the ice would be bad. Sitting at the Royal Berks with a broken rib waiting to get the gash in my forehead stitched, I had plenty of time to contemplate the old adage:

'There is no fool like an old fool.' ●



KIDMORE END HALL BUILT 100 YEARS AGO

The hall was built to commemorate those who gave their lives in the First World War 1914 to 1918.

28 years later when Sonning Common became a local government parish, Kidmore End War Memorial Hall became part of the new parish. The land was donated by a local farmer at Bishopswood, and the hall was built by volunteer builders in their spare time. A women's committee provided the refreshments throughout and a photo at the time shows them in white blouses and flowing skirts helping to dig the foundations. The hall was designed by William Callis. It was owned and controlled by parishioners. More recently the trustees decided it should be under the auspices of the parish office in Sonning Common.

It was inaugurated on 11 November 1922 with a ceremonial opening by Lord Phillimore. Above the stage is a laurel wreath carved by Thomas Batting a notable local craftsman. A roll of honour was created and has been

added to, including WW2, the Falklands and Afghanistan veterans. In 1938 the territorials had used the premises as a drill hall. The Home Guard were based there, and ration books were issued from it during WW2.

The roll of honour includes more recent victims. Fred Slough lost his life in the Falklands in 1982 and Cyrus Thatcher and Barry Weston died in Afghanistan.

Diana Pearman



MEMORIAL PARK, THE BIGGEST EVER PROJECT FOR SONNING COMMON

Open at last after 6 years of hard work and in time for the school summer holiday 2022



The team are in the forefront of the above photo. They are an amazing group of people who have worked together to achieve the result as shown. My thanks and admiration for their dedication is commensurate with the very attractive and enticing Memorial Park intended to encourage healthy activity from all ages in our community. It is even more important post covid which reminded us of the need to remain as well as we can through regular exercise.

Hence the mantra, to promote health through enjoyable exercise, as much as possible on Memorial Park. The park was opened on 22 July with a celebratory ribbon cutting and a free ice cream from the van.

The new park offers a multi-use games area with high quality polymeric and asphalt surfaces, a three-metre perimeter trackway for cycling, running, and walking, a 100-metre sprint straight, level playing areas for large games and recreational space for residents to enjoy. The newest addition to the site is the



children's play area, which includes a large play tractor, a roundabout and a daring 'cliff rider' where children 'pole vault' from one platform to another

The first group to use the park came from the Primary school. 106 children arrived clutching their teddy Bears so they could enjoy the picnic.

There is still work to be done

- Landscape planting, across the whole site, will include Cherry trees and hedging. Native trees and plants have been chosen. Planting times will be weather dependent and may commence this autumn. Leigh Rawlins will be managing this aspect of work.
- A second pedestrian route onto the park is from Farm Close. This ancient pathway has been cleared and a path laid. It used to be the tractor route when the field was used for agriculture. It has been gifted to the Memorial Park and is now an accessible route for walkers, cyclists, push and wheelchairs. The pedestrian route is open from Lambourne Road with a walk through the new homes of Sonning Grove. Travel to the park is encouraged to be pedestrian and walking/cycling access. The cycle racks are ready in place.
- The next major project is to light the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). This work has already begun and is due to be completed by the time the clocks fall back in October. Penny Snowden is managing this complex project and I am sure her determination will

mean that use of the lit MUGA can be extended into the winter evenings.

We were very pleased with the uptake of events over the summer. As we did not know when the park would open, it was only through hopeful organisation that the ones below did run.

- 320 visits
- 34 hours of activity
- 12 different sports
- You Move family fun; Orienteering; Basketball; netball; football; pickleball; pop lacrosse; cricket; family boot camp; rounders; handball; multi-sport games

Comment from parents/carers

I wanted to write a note to you and all the other coaches to say a massive thank you to you all. My son absolutely loved each of the 6 sessions he came to! The coaches were explaining/joining in/encouraging the kids. It was great to see how inspiring and good role models they were to encourage kids in sport. You were all doing an amazing job.

Thank you much to you and your team! They have been wonderful! Their patience, upbeat personalities and general interactions with the children have been brilliant. All 3 of my children have loved all their sessions!

We feel really lucky we got the chance to benefit from the experience of so many sports across the two weeks that we attended. Please pass on my gratitude and best wishes.

The opportunities to play different sports throughout the summer at Memorial Park were thoroughly enjoyed by my children and the co-ordinations made the experience engaging and fun!! My children loved playing the different sports and learning new skills. Thank you for all your hard work. I very much appreciate it!!!

I think it's wonderful to have had this available.



Great provision! thank you. The girls really loved trying out the sports.

Fantastic experience - my children loved it and it was run by such excellent staff.

Excellent provision by amazing staff.

Thank you so much, our son absolutely loved the sports sessions. Fantastic, he got to try lacrosse too as this is such a unique experience! Would love there to be more sessions in half term and other holidays.

The activities provided my son with a great opportunity to meet with some of the boys he will be going to secondary school with next week.

100% of respondents to the survey said the activities had given their child an active experience, helped them interact socially, had been a happy experience, helped them develop new skills, helped their fitness and energy levels, and been helpful provision during the holidays. They

also said it had helped parents meet up with other people.

These events have largely generated new opportunities because of the summer activities. The following list are the events planned for the next few months.

- 2 more Family Bootcamp sessions were run during September for children aged 8+ with parents.
- 6 weeks of basketball (2 sessions a week) at MECE as a precursor to Reading Rockets Basketball Club Hub starting post half term
- Lacrosse - contact with Reading for possible additional sessions
- Roller skiing using the trackway

It is highly evident that these activities have triggered an interest and will generate further activities. Get in touch if you would like to run any physical activity on memorial park. We are looking for a range of recreation and sports which will include all ages in the village. ●

Diana Pearman

Chair of Memorial Park working group.

ROTHERFIELD UNITED FC NEWS

by Christine Atkinson

The teams have just restarted the season and are looking forward to plenty of football through the winter. The Club will be in their 50th year next year and plans are ongoing for a big celebration. A clubhouse has been a 'goal' for many years and is still a major aim for the next few years.

RUFC are also very pleased to welcome a Ladies team to the club this season - Rotherfield Queen Bees - who will be training at Bishopswood ground on

Wednesday evenings. The junior girls' team are training on Tuesdays and the youngest Wildcats on Saturday mornings. So, any girls and ladies inspired by the England Lionesses have opportunities to play at all ages. ●



CELEBRATION OF THE SONNING COMMON HEALTH CENTRE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



We celebrated this on Saturday 3rd September after Covid delayed this event for 2 years, hopefully all the better for it. Judging by the comments we have received it was a great success. We think about 200 people attended at some point throughout the day with a large number of past and present employees enjoying catching up.

The forecast was for a dry day, it was fairly warm but we did have a couple of short showers but not enough to drive visitors away.

We had 9 stalls outside featuring health activities and social health help groups. Active Leaders had activities for the children, but sadly not many attended.

A series of talks featured during the

morning, Dr Kim Emerson opened the event followed by Dr William Bird, Richard Hemphill, Dr John Hasler, Rosie Foster (Stewart) & Lindsay Hasler and Dr Andrew Burnett. Kim ended the talks with a poem about her time as a trainee at the practice.

All were excellent and entertaining, and deserve our thanks.

A Welcome board in the lobby with the partners' photos greeted visitors to the event. A collection of memories of past staff featured. A symbolic tree stood at the entrance drawn by Leila for attendees to sign. This will be a permanent record of the event.

In the waiting room a display of the many health events held over the years

including Weight loss and No smoking events to Dementia Day in the village hall.

The History of GP training and trainees at SCHC was compiled by Sue Ronay with anecdotes of their time in training and updates on where they are now with photos from a range of trainees over the years.

Photographic and Written History of Sonning Common Health Centre, covered events, awards and celebrations.

Many surgical instruments were displayed, some made one's eyes water to think of their uses!

Volunteers served teas, coffee and cakes inside. Our worry that there

wouldn't be sufficient was unfounded as there was a magnificent array with almost all the flavours you could think of. Our thanks to all those who prepared and served these.

Donations were given to Supporting Young People to Take Charge of Their Mental Health

Outside FINK van served fresh and vibrant Middle Eastern Fusion street food for mental health. Thank you for amazing, tasty food.

To finish the day we celebrated with an amazing 50th cake made by Kim Emerson and a glass of bubbles.

Our thanks to everyone who made this day memorable, just incredible. ●

Sue Litchfield



HEALTH CENTRE UPDATE



Covid booster vaccines

Covid booster clinics will be run this autumn. Patients aged 65 years and older and those with weakened immune systems will be offered a booster of Coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccine first. The current advice is that if you are in these groups, you should have a booster 6 months after your vaccine to offer the best protection against becoming seriously ill from Covid. All those over the age of 50 years will also be offered a booster vaccine. If you have not yet been vaccinated, you can book into any of our clinics.

Flu

All patients eligible for the flu vaccine were immunised at the same time as Covid-19 booster vaccines, during September.

Staff News

Welcome to the new GP registrars: Dr Haria, Dr Evans and Dr Tawa who joined in August and a belated welcome to Dr Sana Shaikh who joined in early February. The new registrars will be with the practice for one year. Patients can make appointments to see any of



**SONNING COMMON
HEALTH CENTRE**
Wood Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9SW
Tel: 0118 9722188



Flu & COVID Autumn Booster Clinics 2022-2023

We are offering both Flu and Covid vaccine at the same time. We will be inviting patients who are over 65 years and clinical vulnerable to start with. Then over 50's starting in October and all subject to receiving the vaccines on time.

How to book an appointment
Please book into one of our clinics by using the NHS App. Alternatively, if you have any issues booking through the App, please contact the Health Centre on 01189722188 and choose option 8 (our dedicated Covid & Flu line). Lines are open between 10am-3pm Tuesday- Friday only.

| | | |
|---|---------|-------------------|
| Wednesday 5 th October | 4pm-8pm | 50-64 years |
| Wednesday 12 th October | 4pm-8pm | All eligible ages |
| *Saturday 15th October Provisional date | 9pm-1pm | All eligible ages |
| Wednesday 19 th October | 4pm-8pm | All eligible ages |
| Wednesday 2 nd November | 4pm-8pm | All eligible ages |
| *Saturday 5th November Provisional date if required | 9am-1pm | All eligible ages |

Clinic dates and times may change due to demand.

You are eligible for a free flu vaccine if you fall into any of these categories: Children aged 2 and 3 years, over 50 years, registered carers, care home residents and patients in a clinical risk group. Dates for children are still to be confirmed.
If you are unsure of your eligibility, please ask a nurse or GP at the Health Centre.

our GP registrars while they are working at the practice. Registrars may ask for your consent to be recorded during a consultation as part of their training and assessment.

Welcome to Nikki, our new practice nurse, who started with us in mid April. We also want to welcome our new receptionists: Anna, Sharon, Amanda, Emily and Molly to the team and say a farewell to: Loretta, Kim, Liza and Bronnie they will be missed. ●

Sue Litchfield for SCHC



WHAT ON EARTH IS FOSCL?



I have been a regular library user since moving to the village in 1996, and I must admit that for most of that time I took it for granted. Yes, I knew it had been threatened with closure; yes, I knew there had been a hard-fought campaign to save it; and yes, I knew there had been staffing and other budget cuts. But the library was still there, so I didn't really think twice about it.

I now realise the library relies on the generous nature of individuals to keep it running. Some give time (these are volunteers), some give money (these are Friends) and some give both. If you are one of those individuals, I thank you on behalf of all the blissfully unaware library users who would surely thank you themselves if they only knew. Your donation, whatever form it takes, really is appreciated.

Those who become Friends of the library do so by donating £10 (or at their discretion often more) a year. How this money is used and how further funds are raised are decided by a committee which is elected at the AGM in November.

The objectives of the Friends of Sonning Common Library (FoSCL) are to advance the education and quality of life of the public by promotion of, support for and improvements to Sonning Common Library. The donations are therefore used to supplement the budget from the council to buy new books and other resources for your library.

The committee organises fund-raising events which in 2022 have included a murder/mystery evening in collaboration with The Chiltern Players, a stall at Sonning Common Primary School's summer fete, and a quiz which is planned for 21 October (tickets available from the library). Money from these events is used to supplement activities in the library such as the ever-popular ZooLab and Lego Master Builders visits for children, as well as writing workshops and author visits for adults. Other free activities such as the I-Spy Trails, Big Bear Hunt and craft mornings for children are organised to cement the library in its role as a community hub. If you've got a little time to spare, why not become

a volunteer or even join the committee? There is a role for everybody. Whether your main talent is talking (like me!), baking (definitely not like me!), reading to children, eMarketing, or whatever it may be, the library is a great way to get involved with your community.

The achievement in keeping our library open and vibrant should be celebrated. You can become part of this by using the library whether it be to borrow books, donate to the Springwater Food Bank or to take part in one of the upcoming events. Ultimately, it will be the footfall and borrowing figures which our library will be judged on, if it comes under threat again. So, even if you'd rather not get involved, do still drop in every now and then to see what's going on.

The next AGM will be held in the library in Grove Road on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 7pm. Please feel free to come along. ●

Contact details:

Email: friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com

Telephone: 0118 972 2448

Volunteer roles

reading to, and interacting with, children at Rhyme time or Storytime

delivering books to those who can't come to the library

helping at events

assisting in the library

helping people with their computers and digital devices

helping to market events held at the library

making cakes for events



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Rhymetimes for the under-5s are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 11 - 11.30am, run by volunteers. More volunteers are needed - if you miss singing rhymes to your children/grandchildren, come and do it at the library! (Ask the library manager for more information)

Storytimes are held every Saturday at 10am - and on 'special' Saturdays we have crafts, and homemade cakes for sale.

Saturday specials will be on 29 October (a Halloween event) and we're also thinking of doing one on 5 November, so that Bonfire Night doesn't get forgotten...

If you need help with your Smartphone/tablet/laptop, let us know and we'll find a volunteer to help you. We also have free wifi in the library, and computers, printers and a photocopier for public use.

972 2448 or email (sonningcommon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Or just come in and ask! ●

Rosemary Dunstan



Queen Elizabeth II



This tribute to our Queen Elizabeth II has been compiled by Diana Pearman using the wise words of others

Service that she believed lay at the heart of the Crown she inherited and devoted her long life to.

Her grace, her warmth made it a privilege to know her.

The many decades have left their mark, but her eyes still sparkle and her voice is still clear.

Over the decades she spoke little, and revealed even less, about herself

It was her decision to allow her coronation to be televised, her decision to televise the Christmas message.

A sovereign who relished tradition leading an institution established upon it.

Church and aristocracy, the gradations of class and knowing your place - crumbled. Financial success and celebrity overtook accident of birth as a measure of societal achievement

That resistance, that deep appreciation - love, even - of tradition, was her greatest strength, and led to perhaps her greatest test and gravest crisis, as her family unravelled during the 1990's

What was her place - and the monarchy's - in the new "Cool Britannia" and the informal style embraced by Tony Blair? How did the Palace - repository of tradition - fit in with the popular demand for change expressed in Labour's crushing election victory?

Her performance was flawless, her speech brief but perfectly pitched. She spoke of "lessons to be learned"; she spoke "as a grandmother"; she spoke of the "determination to cherish" After her late response to Diana's death.

It looked glamorous - the Royal Yacht, the Queen's Flight, banquets and galas - and before international air travel became commonplace, it was an extraordinary experience. But it was always hard work, long days and weeks of receptions, exhibitions, openings, lunches with officials, state dinners and speeches.

1995 she would call her trip to South Africa: "One of the most outstanding

experiences of my life". President Nelson Mandela replied: "One of the most unforgettable moments in our history."

Her trip to Ireland she spoke the language, if not the words, of apology; "With the benefit of historical hindsight, we can all see things which we wish had been done differently, or not at all." Perhaps no greater single service did the Queen give her Crown, or her country.

The Crown's political role had dwindled She was there to advise, to encourage, to warn and to listen as if one's sort of a sponge. Her refusal to bend the monarchy to the winds of fashion, that enabled her to triumph in the role that would earn her the love and respect.

Her endless patience, for her refusal to emote in public, to share her thoughts, to lean left or right, to involve herself in fashionable causes or respond to the slings and arrows hurled at her and her family over the many decades.

The continuity she represented in person and in office had a value beyond measure. "I am the last bastion of standards." REST IN PEACE

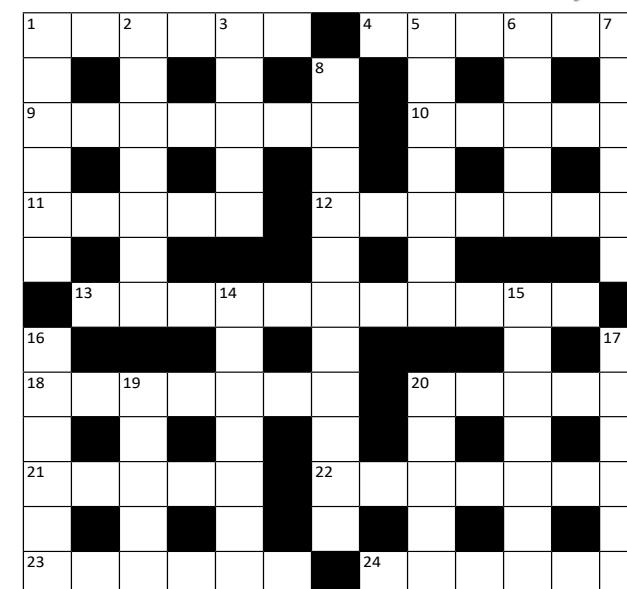
King Charles III is the best-prepared and oldest new monarch to take to the throne.

We wish you well from the residents of Sonning Common. She is a hard act to follow.

PUZZLE PAGE

By DAVID DUNSTAN

Cryptic crossword



ACROSS

- Spare moment (6)
- Made bed in local town (6)
- Right old obsession for this country (7)
- Book space for bush (5)
- Hat seen in Morecambe retrospective (5)
- Most beautiful song in jamboree (7)
- Darling wolf disturbed local town (11)
- Down payment for cooked topside (7)
- Two firms with a drink (5)
- Previous partner has time to include the queen and make an effort (5)
- Blokes and I arranged in a column (7)
- Bill's partner and boy in local village (6)
- Bric-a-brac hoax returns: it's an unfair law (6)

DOWN

- Flasher is a good person with a cloak (6)
- County with British air returning (7)
- No French alien group (5)
- Popular case is summarised (2,5)
- Double ice cream - around a litre (5)
- Fruit also covers rug (6)
- Failure of column, faint disturbance (11)
- Refurbished hotels - love this country (7)
- Ticket for pier etc sorted (7)
- Sailor takes in diver with no current, carefully, for example (7)
- Hamper request in gamble (6)
- Oddly, peace earns praise (5)
- Dear French fortified wine for the audience (5)

Sudoku

Grading: medium

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | | | | 4 | | 6 |
| 4 | | | 3 | 2 | 5 | | |
| | | | | | 1 | | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | | 1 | | | 3 |
| | | 7 | | | | 8 | |
| | 3 | | | 4 | | 6 | 2 |
| | 5 | | 9 | | | | |
| | | 2 | | 5 | 4 | | 9 |
| 9 | | 4 | | | | | 8 |

Cryptogram

The following quotation has been encoded using a simple letter substitution. What does it say?

UPTPLAV AIS AV E NPMAON DPBEOVP
ESCUYASH GPTT MISP AV WEWP.
- RWPM ETTPS

Quiz: St George

- St George came from:
(a) Egypt (b) Greece (c) Persia (d) Turkey
- Which country is St George **not** the patron saint of?
(a) England (b) Ethiopia (c) France (d) Georgia
- St George is also the patron saint of: (a) Barnardo's (b) Boy Scouts (c) British Red Cross (d) Girl Guides
- His bones are buried in the Church of St George in
(a) Egypt (Alexandria) (b) Greece (Corinth) (c) Israel (Lydda) (d) Turkey (Antioch)
- George was adopted as patron saint of England by:
(a) Richard I (the Lionheart) in 1195 (b) Edward III in 1350 (c) Henry V in 1415 (d) Elizabeth I in 1575
- The flag of St George is (a) a red cross on white background (b) a white cross on red background (c) a white cross on blue background (d) a blue cross on white background
- 23 April (St George's Day) is the birthday of:
(a) Henry VIII (b) William Shakespeare (c) Sir Isaac Newton (d) Sir Edward Elgar
- St George's Chapel is at: (a) Hampton Court Palace (b) Tower of London (c) St James's Palace (d) Windsor Castle
- A traditional custom on St George's Day is to wear a
(a) carnation (b) daffodil (c) lily (d) red rose
- Who said in their election manifesto (2019) that they would make St George's Day a national holiday? (a) Conservatives (b) Labour (c) Liberal Democrats (d) UKIP

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LADIES DANCE CLASSES

Monday's at Kidmore End Memorial Hall
Gentle class at 5.30pm and Regular class at 6.30pm to include core strengthening and leg stretching, so you may want to bring a mat?

Both classes will be a structured mix of modern dance and ballet,
Absolutely no experience necessary just the love of good music and fun!

£7 per class - pay as you go

Planning a midweek 9.30am - Contact Toria
07866 610543 or toria-5-6-7-8-nicol@outlook.com

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SICK PAY ADVICE

In March the Office for National Statistics reported that approximately 1.7 million people in the UK were experiencing self-reported long Covid. Over half of these had symptoms such as fatigue, loss of sense of smell and inability to breathe, for at least a year. This can have a far-reaching impact.

In the short term, if you are employed and ill, sick pay may be available and there is information about this on our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk if you think you are not receiving the correct amount. If your income has dropped, an online benefit calculator will show whether you may be entitled to additional financial help, such as Universal Credit, Council Tax Reduction and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) etc. Details of how to claim

benefits, including contact numbers, are on our website. An unexpected drop in income means that debts can quickly mount up and it is better to take action to manage the situation sooner rather than later. You can talk to an adviser on our Debt Helpline: **0800 240 4420**. There is also a link to webchat in the debt section of our website.

If you are being dismissed from work due to long-term illness, there is also advice about this on our website, or you can speak to an adviser by phoning Adviceline: 0808 278 7907.

There is ongoing research into long Covid as so much is still unknown, and new groups are forming to provide information and mutual support. ●

**citizens
advice**

SODC NEWS

Survey opens on our Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

We know that everyone's personal circumstances mean they experience the world differently, and sometimes people need organisations like ours to go that bit further to help them. That's why we've launched a consultation to help us to create our Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

We'd like your views on how we can make it easier for people with different needs to access our services. We already do what is required of us legally, but we want to go further to help ensure everyone is able to find out information they need in the best possible way.

Electric blanket safety checks

Residents are being encouraged to take advantage of free electric blanket safety checks from Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team. You can find your nearest event and how to book on the county council website.

Supporting Ukraine Independence Day

We're already flying the Ukrainian flag at our offices at 135 and Abbey House and, to show further support, we plan to post and share social media messages using the hashtags #StandforFreedom #StandWithUkraine.

More information on how we can all help support Ukrainian nationals can be found on our website.

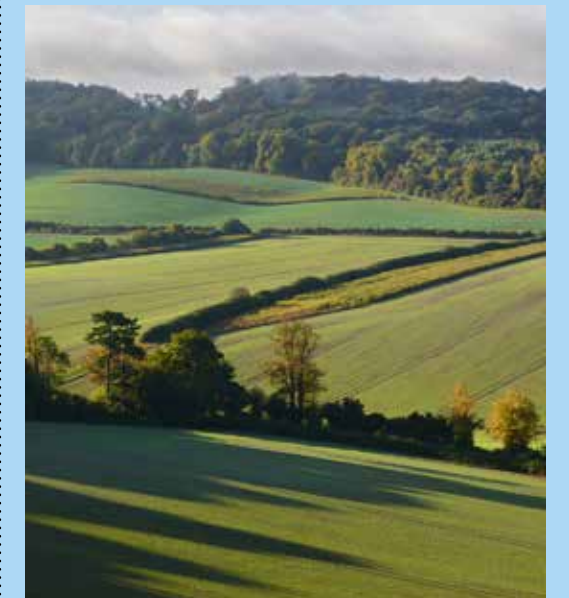
YouMove

Our latest project to engage young people and their families in receipt of free school meals, or who are vulnerable, is now in full swing. With offers including 50 per cent off GLL memberships, All Stars Cricket programmes, Swim for £3.50 for parent and children at Park Club on Milton Park.

We have offers for everyone and plan to bring you more! Find out more on our YouMove webpage. ●

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info@oclt.org.uk

JOAN LAMPRELL



Our lovely neighbour and long-term friend, Joan, died very suddenly on 28 June.

It was a dreadful shock when the three of us found her in her home. We sensed something was wrong and went to check on her as she hadn't attended our early morning pilates session and we couldn't reach her on the phone. She never missed a session without letting us know, because that was the kind of reliable friend she was.

With Joan, we were the Fractious Four Face Time Pilates group - founded in lockdown for exercise and therapy. We argued, cried and ranted about Covid and other issues and Joan would frequently remind us to keep our core in.

Joan had moved to the village in the 1970s with her husband Neil. Her daughter Katherine was subsequently born in the 1980s and raised in the village. They enjoyed a very close relationship spending many happy times together. Joan was a caring, loving and supportive parent, who always ensured Katherine had every

opportunity to succeed in whatever she chose to do. Katherine's happiness was so important to her.

Joan worked for over 40 years in Local Government, and despite her busy work and home life, was an incredibly active part of our community and village life. This increased when she retired in 2017.

She was a member of the Patient Participation Group for the Health Centre, she supported the library, volunteering for Saturday morning sessions where she produced her famous lemon drizzle cakes in quantities to feed the whole village. The Chiltern Players benefitted frequently from her support for their productions where she served refreshments and staffed the door.

Joan was full of kindness and desire to help, seeking out people who needed support. This was best demonstrated during Covid when in lockdown she volunteered to collect prescriptions, do shopping and errands for the older members of the community who were more vulnerable as she said she was "only 67". Nothing was too much trouble. She loved knitting hats for new -born friends' grandchildren and anyone else she knew who had a baby. She must have knitted well over 50.

Her Christian faith was of the utmost importance to her and she played a very active role in church life, having just taken over as church warden at Christ the King. She was throwing herself into it with gusto, tackling rotas and woodworm with her usual commitment. Her annual organisation of the Christingle service to raise money for the Children's Society involved vast quantities of oranges, dolly mixtures, aluminium foil, cocktail sticks and candles all painstakingly

assembled on Christmas Eve in her kitchen.

A keen member of the National Women's Register, she loved organising outings for the group, visiting places of interest nearby and in London. She joined the group each year on their European city break with great enthusiasm and always contributed to the bi-weekly meetings with a well-researched piece.

Joan had a large number of very good friends and enjoyed a busy social calendar. She was devastated when her closest friend Annabel Irwin passed away in May of this year, a friend with whom she had spent Christmas on so many occasions and together they had recently completed a 17 mile walk to raise funds for the church.

She spent as much time out of the house, keeping as busy as she could, tackling any weeds and ivy in her large garden, and nurturing her peonies and vegetable garden which were her pride and joy. A long-term member of the V & A Museum, she loved visiting the many exhibitions and sharing this experience with her friends and daughter.

She was witty, sharp, meticulous about detail, a lover of tea with friends as well as long walks and exploring new places along the way, she was fiercely intelligent with a constant desire to read and learn. With her far-reaching general knowledge, she enjoyed taking part in local quizzes as one of the formidable Comets team.

Joan was a bundle of energy. It saddens and bewilders so many of us that her life has been cut short. She will be sorely missed in the village. ●

Chris Bickerton, Rosemary House and Katherine Lamprell

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE CHRISSIE GODFREY

By the time that you read this, my husband and I will have moved from Sonning Common to a garden apartment close to the river in Henley.

I can hardly believe that I am leaving after so many happy and busy years, but it will be a new start for us and the first home that we have bought together.

Our imminent move has set me on a path down memory Lane.

Memory Lane

When I first moved to the village with my late husband Michael, I was still working full time and the village was just a place to sleep and very occasionally shop in.

But when I stopped working, I looked for some voluntary work to do and saw that the Chairwoman of the village hall committee Jill Vallis (still going strong aged 90) was looking for a secretary. I applied and soon became involved in fund raising events to make money for the hall.

Jill had a little house in France and invited me to stay and while there we decided that with her excellent cooking skills and my fund-raising background, we should come up with some money-making activities. Our first was a soup, bread and cheese lunch in aid of Oxfam.

This was very popular, and we hit upon the idea of a once-a-year themed lunch. The next one was a French lunch, with the hall suitably decorated in French flags and colours. After that we held a Spanish, Scandinavian, Italian, German, Best of Britain, Back to the 60s and then a Greek lunch. After the first two years we moved to an evening event which was even more popular. The hall was suitably decorated for each event and money for a charity was collected every time.

On about the fifth year, we thought we would also like to try making lunch on Christmas Day and this also became a regular fixture. We had a fantastic group of volunteers who really enjoyed the events as well as the preparing, cooking and washing up.

Surprise

The highlight for me was the Russian supper where to my great surprise I met the man who I was to marry six months later. Neither he nor I had the slightest intention of marrying again, as after an initial period of mourning for our respective spouses, we were enjoying the independence and choice of television programmes! We are about to celebrate our fourth wedding anniversary and are very happy together (apart from disagreement about what to watch on the television!)

Parish Council

My increasing involvement with village matters, led me to start questioning other village activities so I joined the parish council, which at that time was moribund and poorly managed.

While out for a walk one day, I met the marvellous Douglas Kedge who was just retiring as a school governor so I asked if he would join the parish council which he did. After a few months of disruption and resignations, it became the efficient and hardworking council that it is today.

At about this time I started a book group and we have just celebrated 21 years. One of the members of the book group is Jill Greenwood, a very keen and knowledgeable gardener, and together we started

the Village Gardeners who still meet twice a month to maintain the flower beds in the centre off the village. One year we won the Best Village prize.....

Once a fund raiser always a fund raiser

My latest project is to help raise money for The Shed quarters Project, an idea instigated by Sheila Maughan who has persuaded Peppard Parish Council to lease her a piece of land which will eventually house a port-a cabin where men and women can come together to make and repair small items of furniture. Our choir Harmony, based at the hall in Peppard, are holding a Christmas concert to raise money for the project. For the past two years I have raised the funding and stored the gifts for the Christmas parcels delivered to many appreciative seniors in the village,

I have had so many happy and productive years in this village and made so many good and lasting friendships, it will be a wrench to leave.

One of the main reasons why, is what I have gained from volunteering in terms of enjoyment and satisfaction far outweighs my input. Go on try it, YOU are needed, and it is so worthwhile 😊

Chrissie Godfrey



BIKES FOR AFRICA



Edited from the team's daily Instagram reports by Christine Atkinson

Just over three years ago, Jon Abbott had an idea to start a small charity collecting unwanted bikes to ship to Africa. He realised that a bike can make a huge difference to the lives of local people, and wanted to have our village help another one in Sierra Leone.

We had a piece in the magazine about Jon and his quest for no longer wanted bikes and there were many offering to donate cycles to the project. Jon and his friends collected 75 bikes which they then spent time repairing and replacing tyres, brakes etc ready to ship. And then.....Covid happened!

So, jump forward two years to this summer and the boys wanted to finish the project and get the bikes to their new owners. Following some fundraising efforts, the bikes were packed in a van and shipped off in late

June. But they really wanted to see the handover themselves and so decided to embark on a "Top Gear" type road trip to Sierra Leone.



This is not an easy journey as some of the countries to pass through have difficult borders to cross and can be dangerous. The three young men (Jon, Sam and Joe) set off on the 14 July to cross the channel and drove through France to a very hot Spain, and a ferry across to Tangier (1,500 miles so far). The route then took them all along the

coastline of Morocco to Mauritania, crossing borders and desert, and all the while ensuring not to go off the road as there could be land mines! (up to 3,000 miles now).

Via road conditions even worse than South Oxfordshire! (and they did have to dig themselves out once) the team headed for Dakar in Senegal, with camping stops along the way. The Senegalese border is one which non-locals find hard to cross without some money finding its way into unofficial persons' pockets, to which the team had to concede. They acquired visas to pass through Guinea, but it became apparent that even officials need paying! So regrettably they had to pay even more to leave Senegal.

Unfortunately, the luck with the car ran out and a new clutch was needed, closely followed by the power steering breaking. As you can imagine it took some time to get the parts and this held them up by almost 2 days.



Jon said "it's an amazing feeling to see their faces and how grateful they were for the bikes"

A fantastic project, amazing adventure and thanks to all those who donated a bike to the cause. Well done Jon Abbot. ●

Because of trying to get to Sierra Leone to meet the bike shipment, they drove through Guinea in 24 hours, taking turns to drive almost non-stop (apart from many officials trying to check their papers) to the border with Sierra Leone - 14 days and over 4200 miles from the start.

In Freetown they visited the school where the bikes were to be distributed and met staff and children who challenged them to a football match on a rainy muddy field!



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Church news

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST AND CHRIST THE KING

After a gloriously long, hot summer, the cooler months of autumn may come as a relief to some, as well as the return to a more regular pattern of life. With lockdowns a distant memory (hopefully!) worship in our two parish churches is getting back to normal and we look forward to various special services in the months leading up to Christmas.

At the end of June, we should have celebrated St John the Baptist's Patronal Festival with a special Evensong. Unfortunately, with more than half the choir (and the Rector!) struck down with Covid this service was postponed until the middle of September when many gathered joyfully to keep this feast. Better late than never!

Following the success of the church choir concert in June, they are busy rehearsing for a second concert to be held at St John's on Sunday 2 October 3.00pm. Do come along to what promises to be an enjoyable afternoon of varied music followed by tea and cake.

On Sunday 9 October our Harvest Thanksgiving service, with the combined choirs of St John's, Christ the King and Kidmore End School, will be held at St John's at 11.00am.

An All-Souls' service will be held on Sunday 30 October 4.30pm at St John's. A quiet and reflective service, with the opportunity to remember those we have loved who have died.

Remembrance Sunday is on 13 November; the service will start at 10.45am at the war memorial in Kidmore End.

Advance notice of the Parish Carol Service which will be held at St John's on Tuesday 20 December 7.30pm the Parish Carol Service at St John's

Christmas Eve the popular Christingle

service is back at Christ the King at 4.00pm.

All are welcome to attend any church service. As ever, regular and special services may be subject to change, so do check on www.achurchnearyou.com or call Revd James (07522 042735) or Karen (07837 151196).

SPRINGWATER NEWS WHAT A SUMMER !

So many awful things going on in the world, so many difficulties for so many people and yet good things still happen, like great holiday weather with children playing outside, camping in dry weather and enjoying the warm sea (Yes, even in the UK!).

Springwater enjoyed many blessings, including a family barbecue, a fun day out, a wonderful harvest meal, but more importantly, great worship, music, teaching and sharing.

Since the Summer break the Ark parent and toddler group, Compassionate Loaf, the Spring Cafe and the Steering Wheel Fellowship are all fully up and running again. Aspire, the women's group and The Food Bank never stopped throughout the holiday period.

We have recently started two home groups one of which is a friendly, safe place for folks to ask all the questions that a new or budding Christian may have. It meets just once a month but we think it will prove a valuable and supportive forum. The other home group is to provide a chance to discuss the content of Sunday mornings but also, of course, to have fun and fellowship,

So, enjoy the rain and the changing colours of this new season and may God bless you.

Do please come and meet with us on a Sunday morning, we would love to see you. We have a lot of young families

coming now. So if you have children they are more than welcome. ●

Chris Girdler
www.springwaterchurch.org.uk
Tel: 01189724519

THE ALPHABET

The ABC of something is the starting point, the basics.
What is the ABC of God?

Let's start with A.

For some it is "A is for Atheism". They say there is no God. But that ignores the evidence: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse".

For some it is "A is for Agnosticism". They say it is impossible to know whether there is a God. But he has made his existence quite clear: "what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them".

It really should be "A is for Adoration". He is almighty, majestic, sovereign, the creator of all things. More than that, he has revealed himself in Jesus Christ, as loving, merciful, and forgiving.

So "A is for Adoration", the only appropriate response to such a glorious God. As a church we express our adoration in worship on Sunday afternoons at 4.30. We would love you to join us. ●

Bruce Jenkins
Chiltern Evangelical Church

PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 25



TELEVISION IS A MEDIUM BECAUSE ANYTHING
WELL DONE IS RARE. - FRED ALLEN

Quiz: St George

1 (d) Turkey. 2 (c) France. 3 (b) Boy Scouts.
4 (c) Israel (Lydda). 5 (b) Edward III in 1350.
6 (a) red cross on white background.
7 (b) William Shakespeare. 8 (d) Windsor Castle.
9 (d) red rose. 10 (b) Labour.

Cryptogram

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
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| 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 |

Sudoku

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| A | O | C | O | C | I | T | S | O | A | V | A |
| B | E | C | C | E | W | A | L | L | I | N | G |
| O | R | D | G | F | O | R | G | F | O | R | G |
| T | S | E | F | A | I | R | E | T | B | E | R |
| A | N | R | L | E | B | O | R | M | A | O | R |
| M | O | O | B | R | A | N | I | A | M | O | R |
| O | L | N | M | O | N | O | C | O | T | S | E |
| T | O | C | D | I | D | N | O | C | O | T | S |

Cryptic crossword

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